



Volume 15

Issue 4

April 16, 2010

Science Olympiad Regional Champs!

By Harry Stewart

At the beginning of the Science Olympiad season, the seventh graders were tentative at first, not knowing what to expect. After receiving an email armed with the event rules, many of the team members emailed Dr. Marro with their desired events. A few weeks later, study guides, powerpoints, and books on the academic events were handed out to the team. Let the studying begin!

With five months to go before the competition, there was a relaxed mood in the air. Christmas break was almost upon us, and Dr. Marro organized meetings during the break. The build events had begun to take shape, and studying had started to gain momentum. Sadly, a few people had

to drop out for other obligations, and events were re-assigned.

With the competition drawing near, the build events were in the final stages, and studying had changed to perfecting. The traditional Friday night cram session began, and along with it arrived the stress. I was re-assigned to a physics event called shock value, and my night was spent being lectured by Dr. Dickens on the physics of circuitry and electronics. Finally, the stress-filled night ended.

Arriving at MBA at 6 a.m., almost everyone was tired and unfocused. Build events were loaded onto the bus, and the trip began. Upon arrival at MTSU, the build events were impounded, and the events started. From the one answer not known on

the tests to the MBA curse of the build events which rendered most of them useless, the day was filled with stress.

Finally, it was over, and the award ceremony began. With cheering from the students for every medal won and the writing of the results by the coaches, the room was filled with excitement. At the end of it all, the overall standings were announced amidst many loud cheers. MBA won both the division B and C regional division, meaning we would move on to state in Knoxville.

Once the excitement died down a little, preparation for state could begin. Dr. Marro could not stress enough, and rightly so, that state was more than just a step up from regionals. A new, better bridge was built for the Elevated Bridge event, and repairs were made to the plane for the Wright Stuff event. Extra studying was done, and the Thursday night cram session ended.

On the Friday before the state competition, the build events were once again loaded onto the bus along with luggage for Friday night. The trip to Knoxville was seemingly stress



Congratulations, Regional Champs!

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ON THE HILL

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free. We checked into our rooms at the Jameson Inn, and the two teams went to dinner. The night before the competition was a late one, but the competitors finally went to sleep. The morning of the competition began at 6 a.m. with many tired students.

Once again, build events were impounded, and the students went to home base to wait for their first events. As Dr. Marro had said, the tests were harder, and the competition was fiercer. Also, the curse once again struck the build events, causing despair throughout the team. Finally, the award ceremony started, and the whole MBA team noticed the decrease in medals compared to regionals. The overall trophies were awarded, and the MBA division B team got 3rd place, and C got 1st.

This was the best season for division B in MBA history, so no one was disappointed, and as this season draws to a close, hopes are high for next season.



The group arrives ready to win.

*Matt Miccioli,
Hamilton Milwee,
and Harry
Stewart
prepare for the
competition.*



The 2010 Science Olympiad Team hoists their 3rd place State Trophy.

FATHER-SON DINNER

Father-Son Dinner

by Aaron Kaplan

On March 9, 2010, fathers followed their sons into the gym for the annual MBA Father-Son Dinner. Jim N' Nicks served a terrific barbeque dinner. After Jim N' Nicks recognized and gave out prizes to a few MBA fathers, the Fathers' Club gave their own awards to some of the Fathers' Club participants and some of the MBA faculty. Then several of the seniors took the stage one-by-one to discuss his father's role in the student's life, stressing the importance of building strong relationships. Performance by both the high school collaborative band and the high school chorus were also features of the evening.

The main event of the night came when the long-awaited main speaker for the evening, Mark Inglis, approached the podium with a very unique and interesting tale of his adventures on Mt. Everest. After an



Mark Inglis



Aaron with his father, Mark Kaplan

unsuccessful attempt to climb the mountain in 1982, Mark Inglis suffered severe frostbite, resulting in his having to have his legs amputated from the knee down. One would think that such a tragedy would be the end of his climbing career, but it turned out to be far from it. Mark Inglis once again attempted Mt. Everest and was successful in May of 2006. He made history as the first double-amputee climber to reach the top of the mountain. Since then, Mr. Inglis has become involved in assisting other amputees to obtain artificial legs such as his. Mr. Inglis told us not only about his adventure but also about the lessons he learned from what he did: Dream, and go after your dreams.

It is obvious that these ideas were used by Mr. Inglis as he tackled his dream. He said, "The concept of challenge and

personal excellence is an integral part of my life, responsible on many levels for how I have turned what many people would think of as stumbling blocks to the stepping stones of life."

The Father-Son Dinner is a wonderful event that gives the students not only time with their fathers but also a time to recognize and appreciate them.



Jide and Samuel Bamigboye



Tucker and Greg Voges



Ross and Trey Rochford with Alan and Billy Lynch
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FATHER-SON DINNER



Henry and Hank Thomas



Kang and Sam Huh



Ted and Jacob Lothers with Gregory and Scott Quesinberry



James and Doug Mathews



Luke and Ryan with Rob Barrick



Billy and David Deutsch



William and Nathan Tinnell and Don and Chip Brothers with Kip and Turner Smith

FATHER-SON DINNER



Will and Bob Singer



Dan and Keon Cleary



David and Henry Ingram with David, John, and Cole Harrison



Sam, Larry, and Robert Papel



Taylor and Dillard Adams



*Left: John Michael and
Mike Gould*

*Right: Charles and Paul
Hunter*



ON THE HILL

A Day of Math

by Sam Hurd

On Saturday, February 6, eight MBA Junior School students participated in the Mathcounts competition at the Adventure Science Center. These are the students who had been preparing for this competition ever since September: Sam Hurd, Andrew Dupuis, Kalyan Chadavalavada, Wesley Jenkins, Harry Stewart, Nilay Patel, Charles Hunter, and Davis Lovvorn.

All of our hard work over the past few months came down to the chapter competition on Saturday, the 6th. We met at 8:15 at the Adventure Science Center to get our team organized for the competition, which started around 9:15. We all waited

and talked before the competition was handed out, waiting to see if it would be a difficult one. Finally, the rules were read, and the competition began.

The competition is a three-part test. The first round is the sprint round, which is a thirty question test with forty minutes to finish it. The second round is the target round, which is an eight question round that is tested in four series of two questions with six minutes to answer each set of two questions. Those first two rounds are the individual round, which are scored to make up your individual score. Each question on the sprint round is worth one point and each question on the target round is worth two points. The last round of the competition is the team round which is completed by your team of four together, so you can talk to each other as you take it. The team score is the average of everyone on your team's individual

score plus your team's team round score.

This test was a difficult test for a chapter competition, but we had trained hard. In the end, our team came in third overall with Woodland in second, and Nashville Home School in first, so it was a little disappointing, but we had all done very well. The top team plus the top four students not counting anyone on the top team goes to state, so we still had a chance to make it as individuals. We all did surprisingly well in individuals for our team's placement. Out of seventy-three students, Sam came in fifth, Kalyan came in seventh, Andrew came in ninth, and Wesley came in sixteenth. One of the Home School boys got in the top four, so Sam Hurd made it to state and competed on Saturday March 13, placing eleventh. We would like to thank our coach, Mrs. Qian, for helping us get this far in Mathcounts.



Congratulations to our 2010 Mathcounts Team

ON THE HILL

MBA Hosts Math Invitational

By Mike Davidson

On Saturday, March 6th, MBA hosted the 4th Annual MBA Math Invitational. Forty-five sixth graders represented seventeen schools from the Nashville area. Grassland won the team competition with 45 points out of a potential 50. Christ the King, Brentwood Middle, and Oak Hill all



Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Shackleford tied for 2nd with 44 points, and Head Magnet took 5th place with 43 points.

In the individual competition Matthew Canonico won the contest with a near perfect paper, scoring 24 out of a potential 25 points. Rounding out the top five were Max Li, Alvin Zhang, and

Tony Ding who all scored 23 out of 25 and Jay Shackleford with 22 out of 25 who won the tiebreaker against Andy Motz, Sloane Fuller, Jack Litchfield, and Forrest Andrews-Looper who also scored 22 out of 25.



Mr. Davidson hands out the trophies.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Scholastic Art Awards Gold Medalists



Murphy Smiley



Jess Darnell

New Addition to the Family



Austin Michael Piggee was born on March 9, 2010. The TOH staff wishes his proud father, Marcus, and mother, Jessica, many peaceful moments like this one.

ON THE HILL

Spelling Bee: Part II

By Davis Lovvorn

On a snowy Wednesday, March 10, 2010, two stellar spellers got ready to shake up the competition. The Davidson County Spelling Bee was that day. The bee originally was supposed to be held the day prior, but snow halted the proceedings. In the shadow of snow, Michael Milam and I, Davis Lovvorn, prepared to partake in one of the most important days of our young lives (next to exams, of course). Trevecca Nazarene University hosted the event. After a slight delay getting started, the Bee was underway. Michael went 67th out of 82 and correctly spelled "jovial." I went 76th and correctly spelled "aquatic." Unfortunately, the



Ace Spellers: Michael Milam and Davis Lovvorn

next round, Michael was eliminated due to an exotic pronunciation of the difficult word "boudoir." I made it to the intermission, correctly spelling "rutabaga" and "Swahili." The next round was the "Round of Doom," as about fifteen spellers were eliminated, including myself. I was given the word, "apparatchik." Apparently, it means a

USSR-era communist spy. I completely blew up the word but was happy with the tied-for-15th placing. Michael and I worked extremely hard and are proud of our performances. Thanks to our coach, Ms. Vaughan, for making this great experience possible for me for two years.

Faculty Basketball Game

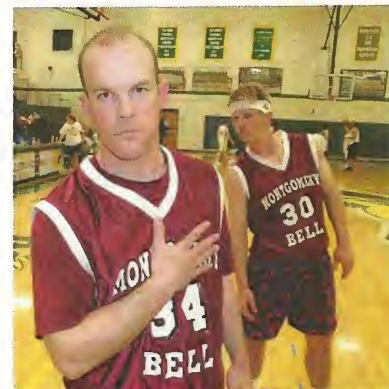
By Sam Weien

On Thursday, March 25, the MBA faculty basketball team, the Old Red, played a basketball game against Hillsboro High School's faculty team. This game benefited Saigon Children's Charity, which provides education and supplies to underprivileged children in Vietnam. The Old Red was putting an undefeated 2-0 record on the line to play for a good cause. The Old Red consisted of Dr. Kinch, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Eppstein, Coach Sanders, Mr. McIntosh,

Mr. Golenor, Mr. McMurray, Mr. Hood, Mr. Davidson, Coach Howell, Coach McMahan, and Coach Anglin. The starters were Mr. McIntosh, Dr. Kinch, Mr. Davidson, Coach McMahan, and Coach Anglin. Once Mr. Davidson won the opening tip-off, MBA went on a fifteen point scoring run before Hillsboro scored their first points, but then Hillsboro went on a seven point scoring run to end the quarter, MBA-15 Hillsboro-7.

During the second quarter, MBA scored 10 points but Hillsboro scored 19 to make the score 25-26 at half time. The third quarter was an even match, but MBA led 35-34 when it was done. However, MBA pulled away during the fourth quarter and won by a score of 55-47. Leading scorers were Anglin with 21 points, McMahan with 20 points, Golenor with 5 points,

and Davidson with 4 points. Other highlights include Coach McMahan with two blocks, and Coach Eppstein wearing what I believe to be red and blue swim trunks. The Old Red played a great game and improved their record to 3-0.



Coach Golenor has his game face on while Coach Eppstein has his swim trunks on.

FEATURES

Dr. Luv Has Spring Fever

by Mac McDonald



Man up, guys! The dreary cold weather is behind us. Spring is here, and not a moment too soon. The warm weather makes spirits lighter and skirts shorter! Here are some thoughts as we move into spring:

- Get some sun and pump some iron. There is nothing worse than a shirtless, pale, wimpy guy playing hacky sack or throwing a Frisbee on a nice day.
- Invest in some cool sunglasses. The ladies always notice expensive shades!
- Girls are into picnics this time of year. Go on over to one of the gourmet food take-outs and put an impressive picnic basket together. Pretend you are into cheese and crackers and what not!
- If there is one girl that you really want to get to know this spring, make

sure to score points with her friends. It's great P.R., and her friends will put in a good word for you! If she's not that into you, don't worry because you might end up liking one of her friends better.



"See how easy this is--just follow the doctor's orders."

Teachers' Fears

By Matt Miccioli

Some of you may have wondered, what do our teachers fear? This article is a compilation of some of our teachers' phobias. Before I continue any further into this article, I would like to say I (Matt Miccioli) am not responsible for any demerits, suspensions, or expulsions given due to the exploitation or misuse of said fears published in this article. Now all legal matters aside, here is a list of the rational and irrational fears of some of our beloved authoritarians.

Mrs. Roberts- Being stuck in a submerged car (this is the only one of several phobias of hers that I was permitted to publish).

Mrs. Bakken- Someone driving her off



The dreaded "squishy" clementine

a cliff in a car.

Dr. Marro- Electricity... On a side note, the terrible curse of the build events has struck the Science Olympiad team again.

Ms. Vaughan- Ophidiophobia, or the fear of snakes.

Mr. Quinn- Mr. Tillman and squishy clementines

Mr. Brown- Claustrophobia

Mr. Wims- Stinging bugs- wasps and bees

May Exam Schedule

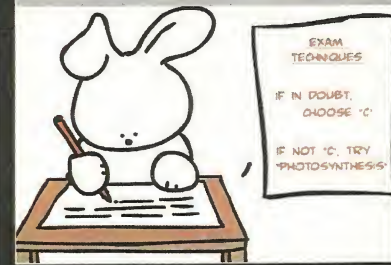
Tuesday, May 18--Science

Wednesday, May 19--Math

Thursday, May 20--English

Friday, May 21--Latin (8th)
Grammar/Vocabulary (7th)

Monday, May 24--History



The Story Continues . . .

Episode IV

By Fletcher Wolfe

The hallway was dark and smelled like fresh mulch. The only light came from dim light bulbs, most likely twenty watt. I was being dragged on my knees by a powerful hand. The light seemed to fade in and out. My captor reached a door and pushed it wide open. He walked through the doorway and threw my limp body to the side. In the middle of the floor was a large table. That was all I really saw. I was stuck in a mild sort of unreality, like being incarcerated in an extremely vivid dream. My captor was apparently writing in a large book that was strewn out on the table. During this experience, I vaguely remember reaching for the door and then being kicked in the jaw, but this memory may simply be a scenario created by my mental state of anguish. Soon the man in the black suit opened the door and left me sitting alone in the dark room.

One low watt bulb flickered on. It was a moment before I rose and walked to the table. The book was leather-bound and green. I opened the old pages which had grown musty with

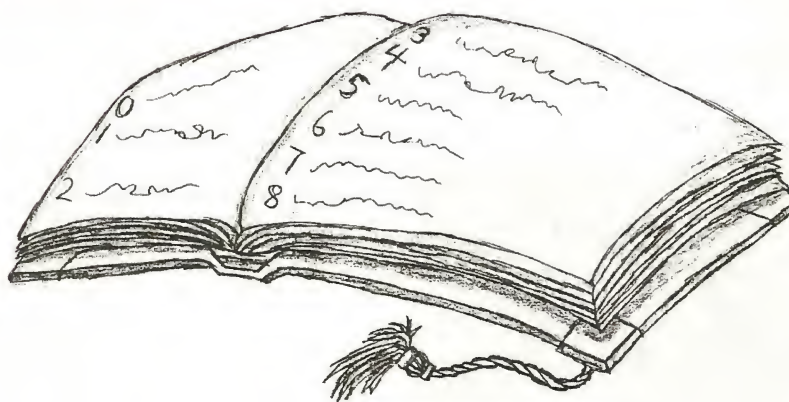


Illustration by Wesley Tseng

age. It was most likely the combination of age and the moist environment of the underground tunnel. I opened the book to around the middle. There I found a collection of names. Next to the names were numbers. The numbers ranged from two to twenty-five. Most of them had the words "items astray" next to them. I flashed back to the demerit board. The book must be a record of demerits given to students over the years. I proceeded to turn the pages when a hand appeared on my shoulder. In my fascination with the book, I failed to notice the door opening. Without thinking I grabbed the book and swung

it around as hard as I could. It made contact with the body that the hand belonged to. It was my former captor. The book hit him in the face with a dull smack that sounded like a cane hitting a pile of wet towels. With that I turned and ran into the wall. Oddly enough, the wall collapsed. Sunlight hit me like a spear thrown from close distance. Not thinking, just acting, I ran through the newly-formed opening. Pavement slammed against my shoes. The same hand suddenly returned to my collar, and the cloth slammed against my neck.

Editor's Note:

In the current and previous serialization stories by Fletcher Wolfe, the protagonist mentions tunnels running under MBA. The tunnels' existence has been the source of famous rumor and speculation floating around MBA for many years. One of the reasons that this rumor started was the fact that the teachers always seem to beat students to class no matter where the teacher was last seen. There are several arguments supporting and dismissing the tunnels' existence, or that they are even accessible.

Arguments For

1. There are plenty of areas where an entrance could be hidden. For example, what is that small building in front of Massey, and has any student ever seen what is actually in there?
2. We don't know what was on the land before MBA.
3. Their existence would explain the teachers' ability to get to class ahead of everyone else.
4. There must be something behind the rumors.

Arguments Against

1. Never in the history of MBA has a

student found the tunnels.

2. There has never been any visible sign of tunnels, such as a sinkhole or something of that nature.
3. There is no specific evidence that there was anything on the grounds before MBA was built that could have had tunnels.

I am merely presenting some ideas to you; however, you must decide for yourself. Personally, I believe that they do exist, just maybe not on the scale that one would imagine. However, the final decision is yours.

-----Jordan Pugh, Editor

FEATURES

I Read, You Read, We All Love to eRead!

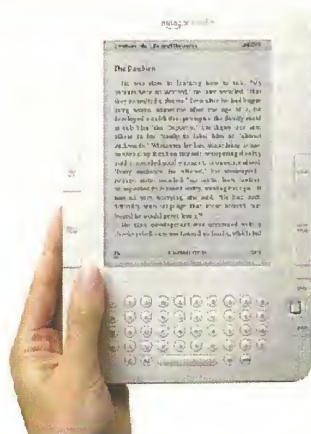
By Andrew Dupuis



When you consider the prospect of going to a bookstore to buy a new novel or journeying to a library to check out the newest craze, what is it that makes you want to waste all that valuable gas money on such travel? This issue, and just the sheer wow-factor, have made eReaders such a success in the past year. From the entrance of the Kindle 1 into popular culture until now, many things have changed in the world of electronic books. Thousands, if not millions, of novels are now available anywhere, anytime. How do you access these vast sources of knowledge, you ask? Well, you can download either Barnes & Noble's or Amazon's iPod/iPhone app and read off that measly screen, use your computer screen, or buy a dedicated eBook reader. This final category will form the bulk of this article.

Kindle

Since 2007, the Kindle and its younger brothers, the Kindle 2 and the Kindle DX, have ruled the eBook stage, becoming Amazon's #1 gift over the last holiday. It was the original mass-production eReader meant for mainstream America and has gladly held its ground in the world



of digitized novels.

Kindles are well-made devices that are thin, light, and comfortable to hold. With a long battery life of two weeks (with wireless turned off), the Kindle can be brought anywhere, without worrying about bringing along a charger. Navigation is controlled through a 6-way mini-joystick in the bottom right of the device. Occupying the remaining non-screen real-estate is a full qwerty keyboard and multiple page-turn buttons. All controls are placed in convenient reach when holding the Kindle in your hands or on your lap, with no serious issues presenting themselves while reading over long periods of time. The only major flaw I noticed when handling the Kindle is that the device is top-heavy due to poor battery placement, making it hard to hold for a long time, and hard to read if seated at a desk.

Kindle has a custom Operating System that allows for quick access to most parts of the device, but the lack of a true home screen is annoying. Some features are nearly impossible to reach through menus without first consulting the web or the included instruction manual.

Overall, the Kindle is a well-constructed device with a few flaws keeping it from holding its place as best eReader.

Nook

The nook (n is meant to be lowercase) is Barnes & Noble's answer to the Kindle and Kindle DX. With a color touch screen for navigation and a 6.8 inch E-

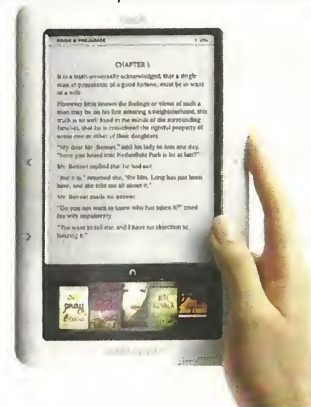
The Kindle 2

Ink screen, the nook definitely looks better than the off-white Kindle. What stands out most when first looking at the nook is the lack of a keyboard or any manual interface device whatsoever. (Save for page-turn buttons). The nook is a pure-white beauty, with the E-Ink and touch screens occupying almost the entire device. The border around the screens is home to manual (not touch-sensitive) page-turn buttons with a very sensitive power button on the top. Overall, the nook is a better looking device than the Kindle and is much easier to hold due to a curve in the silicone backing.

The Operating System on the nook is one most people are already familiar with. The Google Android system, used in all HTC and most Motorola cell phones, forms the base of the nook's interface. Barnes & Noble only changed the appearance. This choice leaves the nook open to open-source apps, if B&N ever opens up the system. This openness, along with the OS's stability, places the nook at a clear advantage over the Kindle.

The nook does have its flaws, though. The sensor used to detect the screen's current position and displayed image is sensitive to even the lightest bumps. While the nook is hard to break, this sensor error makes it very easy to freeze the device. Another issue is the over-sensitive power button. The button feels all. If you even tap the slightly-protruding button, the nook will go into sleep mode. Also, it only takes two seconds of pressure to turn off the

The nook



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FEATURES

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nook, so it's very easy to turn off the device without realizing you touched anything. Note: Within a few days of use, the button becomes less sensitive, and you become used to not holding the nook's top.

Despite the problems, the nook is my recommended eReader out of the three I reviewed due to the possibility of 3rd-party apps, the more aesthetically-pleasing device, and the most stable OS out of any mobile platform save the iPad :)

IPad

Despite my hatred towards this new device, I felt it must be included in this list due to the hype it has received as the "future of eBooks." I will review this device in my next article, but for now, don't hold your breath. The lack of an E-Ink screen



The iPad

will make the iPad very uncomfortable to read for long periods of time.

Sony Reader

Sony's Reader is the current eReader sold by Borders Books. The eReader is the only current touch screen eReader, with its primary (and only) screen being an E-Ink touch screen display. The main flaw of this design is the added reflectivity of the Reader's screen compared to the nook and the Kindle. This covering creates an immense amount of glare, pretty much disabling the device in intense sunlight. This major problem has made the Reader far less popular than the other eReaders discussed in this article.

The Reader is available in three versions, the Daily Edition, the Pocket Edition, and the Touch Edition. The Pocket Edition is the only version without a touch screen. From here on out, this review will relate only to the Daily Edition.

With a large, 8-inch E-Ink display, the Reader has the second largest screen and the lightest package out of all the eReaders reviewed in this article. Multiple navigation buttons are placed directly beneath the display, allowing instant access to the main menu, library, and the current book you are reading. The Reader

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feels cheap in your hands and isn't of the best construction.

The Reader has one of the worst OSs on this list. With bugs, flaws, and multiple major issues, the stability of this device is in serious question. Unless you are desperate to read Word Documents on your eReader, or NEED a full touch screen, don't buy this device.

In conclusion, I believe the nook is the best eReader currently available. Though it isn't as proven as the Kindle and has a few more flaws, the advancing technology and room for growth available with the nook are nonexistent with the Kindle. The Kindle has reached its full potential, while the nook is just starting to blossom.

Switching to Mac

By Andrew Dupuis

When it's time to buy a new computer, there are many choices available. From HP to Dell, even to Apple, every company claims to have the perfect "School-Oriented" Laptop. The only one who tells the truth, though, is Apple. Their laptops are high quality, high performance machines that have good warranties and great customer service (via the Apple Store). So, I assume many of the future

8th and 9th graders will (or already did) purchase a Mac for the next school year. Since my next issue will focus on choosing the right computer, I will focus on the differences between PCs and Macs, and try to explain how to use a Mac to its best.

The first thing you will notice about Macs when you turn yours on the first time is the different home-screen layout. No Start Button! Don't worry. Just click on one of the applications in the dock (that thing floating in the bottom of your screen. This acts as your "home base" for all you need to do on your Mac. You can add more to it from the Applications folder on the right-hand side of your dock, or leave it as it is.

Another important piece of the Mac experience is the Title Bar at the top of your screen. This single bar acts as the

Options bar for every application you open. It's just like the bar on any Windows application. Take Word for example. On a PC, the bar with File, Tools, etc. is available within the window itself, but on a Mac, the current bar for your selected program is displayed at the top of the screen. You can tell what you have selected by checking the name of the program next to the Apple symbol at the top left of the screen.

Settings can be changed by clicking on the settings portion on the Dock or through the Apple symbol at the top-left of the screen. This symbol displays a menu that when clicked also lets you turn off your Mac, force quit an application, or move the Dock.

EDITORIAL

Health Care Reform Debate:

Why Obama's System Will Not Work

by Davis Lovvorn

On Sunday, March 21, 2010, spring should have been underway. However, winter has seemed to continue with the passing of President Obama's healthcare reform bill. For the record, please let me state my firm belief that every person in America deserves health care. The question is, how does our government want to provide it? Do we want to give

everyone free health care with many strings attached, or do we want to give cheap healthcare with fewer strings attached? Before I get into my beliefs, let me state that I am not against health care reform. Our system, even being the best in the world, is outdated, and changes need to be made. Let me reiterate that everyone deserves health care in the most cost-effective way possible.

First, let us look at the facts. The government wants to force the new Health Care plan on all Americans. In my opinion, this method is not the way a capitalist system works. Congress should provide incentives for people to buy healthcare but not force it on citizens. Being in a medical family, my life will be affected and not for the good. Physicians' salaries can be cut by as much as 22% by the bill! This action may not have any short term effect, but in the long term, talented citizens interested in careers in medicine will look at the decrease in salaries and become disinterested. The medical workforce will be less talented and smaller than ever before. Congress wants to create an independent, unelected board (IMAB) that would end Congressional control over

Medicare payments. This would lead to Congress not being able to provide the best healthcare possible in the cheapest way possible. Patients would also not be able to obtain quality, affordable health care as well.

The new healthcare bill practically provides free health care to all. Sounds great, does it not? However, it is not free AT ALL. Congress plans to raise taxes significantly, in a manner in which the wealthy are taxed very high and the poor are barely taxed at all. First of all, this bill sounds a lot like Universal Healthcare in Canada. If we are modeling ourselves after a socialist nation, what does it say about the aims of our government? Second, the tax redistribution is another socialist aim our government has placed upon us. The people do not want to be a socialist nation!

Most Americans are angry over the passing of the bill. Before voting, sixty percent of Americans did NOT want this healthcare bill passed. Its passing reveals that our government does not want to listen to the will of the people. Therefore, eleven states and counting will challenge the bill. Me? I just think it was a political statement

for the left. How will the voters respond to this in the upcoming elections? Vote out the people responsible! It is time for Pelosi to be gone! To be honest, I have had enough of this Congress. They have angered the people for four years too many. I ask the people to do something simple: vote for the rights of Americans. As Senator John McCain (R-AZ) said: "I want to make it very clear, the people I represent...are not going to sit still for this. They're going to want this repealed. We will challenge this in the courts. We will challenge this in the towns. We will challenge this in the cities. We will challenge this in the farms. We will challenge this all over America, and the will of the people will be heard!"

***As with all editorials, these are the expressed opinions of the writer, and the TOH staff invite you to respond if you are so inclined.*



ENTERTAINMENT

Alice Returns to Wonderland!

By Nicholas Heim

Alice in Wonderland is back with a twist from Tim Burton. The maniacal story takes place when Alice is nineteen and doesn't want to get married. So, she follows the Rabbit and runs off into the rabbit hole, and the story truly begins! In this movie, aspects from the original story are seen, but there are also some new characters that premiere in the movie and also some from the original sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass*. Some of these characters include the Mad Hatter, The Red Queen, the Knave of Hearts, and, in addition, the White Queen, the true ruler of Wonderland.

The movie includes violent battles, family conflicts, and an amazing battle on a huge chessboard, which makes the climax of the movie. This movie is much different from other spin-offs of original stories because of the action. Added plots include the Bandersnatch, a bear that is gray with black dots, who protects the sword that can kill the Jabberwock and also betrays the Red Queen. Alice must kill the Jabberwock with the sword to help the White Queen regain the crown. There is everything from beheadings, to polo, to man hunts. The only negative thing about the movie is the dance called the Futterwacken that the Mad Hatter dances at the end of the movie. Everyone has high expectations for it, but it ends up being a pretty lame version of the moonwalk.



Ultimately, this movie is a great twist to the story that everyone knows and actually has a plot to it, versus the original. I would recommend it to anyone, but I do think the story was targeted for a younger audience, even though it deals with more mature themes. I believe that *Alice in Wonderland* deserves a 3 out of 4 stars because it isn't a very original story, and at times it can be a little immature. Go see *Alice in Wonderland*, it is an amazing re-telling of an original story!

The Lightning Thief: A Real Letdown

By William Richardson

The movie *The Lightning Thief* really turned out to be a disappointing movie based on the differences between the book and the movie. In this movie, Zeus's Lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy Jackson, the son of Poseidon, is out to find it and discover the real thief. The movie and the book were very different, and this upset me because if

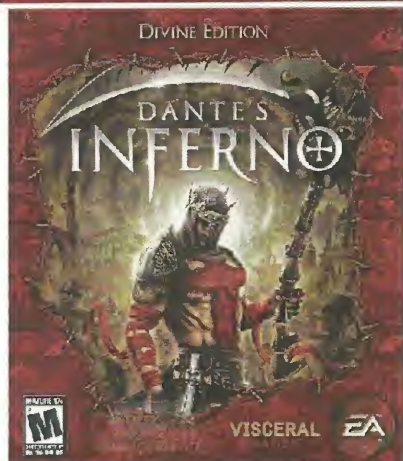


they had stuck to the plot of the book, it would have been great. On the other hand, if you did not read this book, it would have been a fine movie because you did not know the details. The movie seemed rushed and unrealistic (even though it is a fantasy movie). For example, Percy is taken from home one day and to camp the next, and over a two-day period, he becomes a great

fighter, learns to use his powers, and decides to go on a quest to rescue his mother. This movie also seems sort of "Disney-like." The effects were decent, but the acting was very cheesy. The plot wanders too much from the book and leaves out major details. It also adds things that were never mentioned in the book such as visiting the Parthenon in Nashville. I am almost positive that there will not be a follow up, or at least not one worth seeing.

As a side note, Annabeth in the movie is played by a 23 year-old, brown haired girl with blue eyes. In the book, she is 13 years old and has blonde hair and gray eyes. In my opinion, the movie ruined the book. *The Lightning Thief* was a letdown for me.

ENTERTAINMENT



Turning up the Heat on *Dante's Inferno*

by Nick Trogdon

The other day I bought the game *Dante's Inferno* for the Xbox 360. I had heard mixed reviews about the game so far; some thought it was a great game, and others thought it was a simple remake of *God of War*. I partly agree with both these statements. However, before I give my review, I want to remind everyone that this game is rated "M" for mature and contains nudity, LOTS of blood and gore, and slight language. Anyway, I started my journey in the game during the crusades, and I discovered the fighting system was a very fun, fast paced slasher style system. *God of War* veterans will note that the fighting system is almost exactly the same as

the *God of War* franchise. Maybe the same fighting programmer worked on this game? Who knows. Either way, I give the fighting system a 7.0 out of 10, because sometimes it gets a little old slashing through ten or twenty demons to get past one hallway.

Moving right along, we come to our first "boss," Death. In general, this game makes Death out to be really pathetic, and is an easy fight. Then you get Death's scythe with which to hack away hundreds of souls. It takes a while, but after a few more fights, I finally descended into the first level of Hell, Limbo. It took a little while. So I descend into the depths led by Virgil, the poet, and take a ride with Charon, the boatman. As with everything else in the game, I got to kill a lot of big figures in Hell, Charon being one of them. Overall, since I am not even halfway through the storyline yet, I give monsters and characters an 8 out of 10.

Another thing I feel needs to be reviewed is the controls. As I said

before, the controls are extremely similar to the *God of War* games. This being said, the *God of War* controls were extremely fun, as are the ones in *Dante's Inferno*. Death's scythe has a really long range, and is able to hack enemies from around twenty feet away. Not only is Dante extremely powerful, but to add to his strength, you can get upgrades, and make him even stronger. I'm going to have to give the controls a 6.5 out of 10. While being fun and easy to use, I'm almost positive the controls are exactly the same as *God of War*.

The atmosphere of Hell is not what you would think it would be. While souls everywhere are either being tortured or just thrown out of the sky, you can't go anywhere without hearing screams of pain. Hell is not pictured as just a field of fire and torment, it is more like a dungeon or a large castle. Even so, I give the whole game 8.5 out of 10. I have only played the first one and a half levels, and I am already hooked.



ENTERTAINMENT

Battlefield: Bad Company 2

By Jackson Rich
Xbox Live Gamertag:
jrich767
Rating: 9.75/10



While many of you may not be too familiar with the Battlefield franchise, I can positively say that it has developed some of the best video games ever made. While the Battlefield games do feature exciting single-player campaign modes, the games mostly focus on multiplayer elements. The reason many of you haven't heard of the franchise before is that, until recently, Battlefield specialized in PC games. Recently however, the minds behind DICE, the company which develops the Battlefield games, realized that the number of console gamers was steadily increasing. The Battlefield franchise briefly did a stint in console gaming with the two modern combat games but didn't really break out into console gaming before *Bad Company 1*. The sequel to this highly successful game is *Battlefield: Bad Company 2*. BC2 features a riveting single-player mode that plays you as Preston Marlowe, a fairly recent transfer to B-Company, more often referred to as Bad Company. While the first game's campaign had more of a joking demeanor among the squad's other three members (Sarge, Sweetwater, and Haggard), this game has a much more serious atmosphere with much higher stakes. The multiplayer, however, is where

the game pulls out all the stops and throws all it has down in an amazing multiplayer experience. The game features no local gaming mode, only games via an internet connection, but this is not too much of a problem, as the vast majority of the games I play on any game are through Xbox Live. The general gameplay style in BC2 is very different from most other games, mostly because BC2 features many types of vehicles as well as massive maps. The smallest map in BC2 is almost three times the size of *Modern Warfare 2*'s wasteland map! To some, this may seem like a problem, "How do people ever find each other in these massive maps?" I often get asked. The answer is simple. DICE increases the team sizes to twelve players per team and inserts many chokepoints or hot spots where large firefights often occur. BC2 is a very team oriented game, and it is much more rewarding to form a squad and play with your friends than it is to play as a lone wolf. There are four game-types that can be played in BC2: conquest, rush, squad rush, and squad death-match. In conquest, two teams go head to head in an attempt to control three to four bases around the map and wipe out the entire enemy team. In rush mode, there are two teams, one

attacking and one defending. There are multiple bases on each map of a rush game, and the bases are activated each time the attackers overrun a base, then the defenders fall back to the next one. The attacking team attempts to arm charges on two M-com stations per base, and the defenders try to reduce the attackers' reinforcements to nothing by killing them. Squad rush is nearly the same except there is only one M-com station per base, and each team has only four members. Squad death-match pitches four teams of four against one-another with massive infantry firefights and only one vehicle in the entire map, a tank in the dead center. That will give you something to fight for, won't it? The only big downside to this game is that it has an EA server, which fills up every now and then with an excess of players and causes a lag. Overall, I give this game a 9.75 out of 10 star rating and think it is better than MW2. There are many things I don't have room to discuss in this article, so if you have any questions or comments please feel free to e-mail me, send me a message over Xbox Live or, preferably, just ask me if you see me. I'm one of the only ginger kids in the 7th grade, so I'm pretty hard to miss.

WINTER OLYMPICS

The Winter Olympics: The Clash on the Ice

By Kang Huh

As you all know, the 2010 Winter Olympics started in Vancouver, British Columbia on the 12th of February. There were so many events, and all were fantastic; so fantastic, that I have to choose only the best of the best of the ice sports. The first great event was the men's 1500m in short track speed skating, where Lee Jung Su took the gold, beating the two Americans Apolo Ohno and JR Celski who both luckily got the silver and bronze medals.

Yet another great athletic display was shown in the men's 1000m speed skating tournament, where Shani Davis of the United States defeated Korea's darkhorse skater Mo Tae Bum by 0.18 of a second and also defeated American Chad Hederick. On Feb. 15th, Chinese husband-and-wife figure skating pair Shen and Zhao Hongbo won the gold after Zhao's terrible injury years before. Speaking of



Lee Jung Su of South Korea

figure skating, America's Evan Lysacek defeated Russia's figure skater Evgeni Plushenko, who had won a gold medal in this event in Torino in 2006. Also, in the women's figure skating event, Kim Yu-Na of South Korea had a crushing victory over Japanese rival Mao Asada and Canadian Joannie Rochette with two world-record breaking scores of 78.5 and 150.06.

On the 27th, an epic event took place; Steve Holcomb and his 4-man bobsleigh team won a gold medal; in fact, this gold medal was America's first gold medal in 62 years! His team even beat great teams like the German bobsled team. Then, Canada won its first gold medal in short track, in the men's 500m finals; Canadian Francois Hamelin beat Sung Si Bak and Francois-Louis Tremblay, even though both were pushed: Si-Bak by Hamelin, and Tremblay by Ohno. Not surprisingly, Ohno got disqualified, but Hamelin did not; it was really obvious that Hamelin pushed Si-Bak, who was in first, but that's life... and "homefield advantage."

Then, in the women's hockey finals, Canada defeated their arch rivals, the United States 2-0, with Finland defeating Sweden for 3rd. But, this would not be the last time Canada would meet America in hockey. The same teams met to play the men's championships on the 28th. This was a true battle of epic proportions; the United States team was pitted against the Canadian team, who play hockey as a national pastime. Although the game was very tight, and stayed 2-2 the whole game, Canada pulled out of the situation and won 3-2, after a long overtime, leaving team Finland for 3rd. Considering that hockey is Canada's national pastime, America played extremely well, and



Kim Yu-Na of South Korea

we have to congratulate our very own Nashville Predators who contributed to America's success. These players were Shea Weber, Martin Erat, Alexander Sulzer, Marcel Goc, Patric Hornqvist, and Ryan Suter.

Then, in the men's 10,000m, Lee Seung Hoon took the gold after Sven Kramer of the Netherlands was disqualified after his coach told him to switch lanes at the wrong times. Following Seung-Hoon was Russia's Ivan Skobrev and Netherland's Bob de Jong. (At least the Netherlands won a medal.)

In the luge event, Tatjana Huefner of Germany scored two gold medals in the women's division. Also in the luge event, Wolfgang and Andreas Linger won the gold for Austria. In curling, the women's team of Sweden defeated Canada for gold, beating them 7-6. China won the bronze in the women's luge event, *crushing* Switzerland 12-6. In the men's event, Canada earned the gold after defeating the Norwegian team 6-3, and the Swiss team defeated the Swedish team 5-4 for the bronze. These events were the most important to me, and I congratulate each and every one of the athletes that competed. So tune in next time for the London 2012 Summer Olympics!

WINTER OLYMPICS

Superstars and Snow Sports = Success

By Sam Weien

Shaun White. Bode Miller. Lindsey Vonn. Hannah Teeter. These names have become household names because of the Winter Olympics. But there is more to snow sports than the familiar superstars of snow. Many unsung heroes also won medals, and one event is gaining publicity faster than John Wall.

First, let's start with the one sport everybody has been talking about. Snowboarding. The whole world was blown by the new, mind-boggling trick, the Double McTwist 1260. People knew that Shaun White had this in his bag of tricks, so people were eagerly anticipating it. Shaun had already won the gold, but he wanted the world. He pulled this off, and the snowboarding world was changed forever. Shaun White won the half pipe, with Peetu Piiroinen from Finland getting silver and Scotty Lago from USA getting bronze. For the women, Torah Bright won the gold in the half pipe beating out Americans Hannah Teeter and Kelly Clark. Torah Bright is from Australia, so a medal for them is big news, especially since they are not associated with winter.

In snowboard cross, a newer and less recognized event, American



Photographers capture Shaun White's Double McTwist 1260 frame-by-frame, revealing to the world the new wave of the future in snowboarding.

Seth Wescott took gold in the men's event, while Canadian Maelle Ricker took the gold in the women's event.

Since things are a lot easier to do on skis, the Olympics contain many more skiing events. One of the main ones is the downhill competition. In the men's, the Swiss Didier Defago won gold and American Bode Miller won bronze, while in the women's competition, Americans Lindsey Vonn and Julia Mancuso took gold and silver, respectively. Super-Combined is an event where skiers participate in a slalom and a downhill event. In the men's super-combined, the usual slacker, Bode Miller, won the gold while no other American placed. In the women's super-combined, German Maria Riesch took first and American Julia Mancuso took second, but Lindsey Vonn got disqualified on the slalom part of the event. Super-G is an event that is quite similar to slalom but is different in very subtle ways. In the Super-G, American Bode Miller took second, and American Andrew Weibrecht took third. However, Norwegian Aksel Lund Svindal grabbed the gold. In women's Super-G, Andrea Fischbacher from Austria won first, and Lindsey

Vonn won bronze. Bode Miller was disqualified from the slalom and giant slalom events.

One sport has become well known because USA won the gold in it. This sport is Nordic combined. Nordic combined has been taking place since 1924, but USA had never medaled in any Nordic Combined events before, so this event received quite a bit of publicity in the States. This sport involves combinations of ski jumps and cross-country skiing. This year USA won with the team of Brett Camerota, Todd Lodwick, Bill Demong, and Johnny Spillane.

One big moment happened for Canada in snow sports. In two previous tries, Canada had never won a gold on their home-soil during the winter Olympics. But that all changed when Alexandre Bilodeau won gold in the men's moguls freestyle competition in Vancouver. American Byron Wilson also received bronze in that event.

Overall, the snow sports in the Winter Olympics were very intense this year. 2014 in Sochi, Russia near the Georgian border will be a promising year also.

SPORTS

Predators Play the Puck

By Adam Biesman

Is it possible to have heat and cold mix together? Well, if you follow the Nashville Predators, you would know. The playoffs start very soon and the last few games are being played. Every second counts. Every goal given up should feel like a heartbreaker. Every goal scored counts. Every win gives us two points. The Predators are in the thick of the playoff race as they try to get the highest seed possible.

They have been playing really well, losing only a few games to wrap up the season. Every win will help the Predators reach the best playoff seed. With the newly acquired Dustin Boyd and Denis Grebeshkov, the Predators are hoping to really improve their team offensively and defensively. Unfortunately, Grebeshkov and Arnott have missed some of the last games of the season with injuries, but hopefully, as they get ready for the playoffs, we will have a complete team. The Predators are set on defense with the two Olympians: Shea Weber, who can burn a puck through the net, and Ryan Suter, who should be huge threats to any opponents faced. The Predators

have struggled against division rivals Detroit and Chicago this year along with the San Jose Sharks, so hopefully, we do not get paired up to play them. Here is a prediction for playoff seeds in the Western Conference.*

1. San Jose Sharks
2. Chicago Blackhawks
3. Vancouver Canucks
4. Phoenix Coyotes
5. Los Angeles Kings
6. NASHVILLE PREDATORS
7. Detroit Red Wings
8. Colorado Avalanche

*This article was written and submitted for deadline prior to the play-offs.

SEC Tournament Clash

By Brandon Carpenter

With stars such as Ashley Judd (Kentucky) and Jay Cutler (Vanderbilt) in attendance, the SEC tournament proved to be an exciting one. There were complete blowouts and games that came right down to the buzzer. Kentucky, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Vanderbilt all had first round byes with 1 and 2 seeds. In the first round, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, and Georgia all were dominant. Alabama fought back from an 18-point deficit and beat Devin Downy and the Gamecocks. Florida beat an Auburn team that has not been playing well and snapped a three-game losing streak. Georgia also beat Arkansas to play Vanderbilt the next night. Tennessee won – but played awful. But hey, a win is a win. LSU stayed in the fight but could not pull it out. Bruce

Pearl admitted Tennessee did not take LSU seriously.

In the quarter-finals, Alabama almost upset Kentucky, but Kentucky worked their magic with John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins and won. Tennessee played better, but still not great. They got a win over Ole Miss. Mississippi State played an amazing game against the Gators and prevailed over Florida 75 – 69. Barry Stewart led State with seventeen points. Vanderbilt relied on John Jenkins' shooting clinic for the win. With twenty-five points, Jenkins led Vandy in scoring and a win over Georgia. A.J. Ogilvy had ten points as Vandy moved on to the semi-finals. Neither Tennessee nor Vandy played well in the semi-finals. Kentucky led most of the time against Tennessee by around ten points. To make matters worse, Tennessee flat-out quit in the last few minutes of the game, letting Kentucky's lead jump to twenty-nine points as Kentucky prevailed 74 – 45. Vandy struggled throughout the entire game but made a late surge. After going on a 10-0 run, the Commodores came within three. Fatigue was definitely a factor as Vandy slowly died down and

lost 62-52.

The championship game was incredible. Mississippi State had a three point lead with forty-one seconds left, but John Wall stole the ball and got a layup to cut State's lead to one. Down by three again, Kentucky's Eric Bledsoe made one free throw and purposely missed the second. Wall grabbed the rebound and made a hopeful shot, missed. Is the game over? No! DeMarcus Cousins snatched Wall's rebound and shot a lay-up. With just one tenth of a second to spare, the ball left his hand and went in. The shot forced overtime, where Kentucky pulled away and won.

Going to the tourney felt like going to Rupp Arena. Literally, the stadium was 90% Kentucky blue. On the streets, Kentucky fans were offering \$500-\$700 for one ticket. The Wildcat fans that didn't get into the stadium lined the streets of Broadway and downtown, making Nashville a sea of blue. Kentucky has now won an astonishing twenty-six SEC titles out of thirty-four appearances in the championship game. Congrats to the 2010 SEC basketball champs, the Kentucky Wildcats.

Nicholas Caroland Tourney

8th Grade Lax Team Dominates in Tourney

By Ben Barton

This year, the MBA microbe lacrosse team blew the competition away at the Nicholas Caroland Tournament. In the first round of the tournament, the team faced the Franklin Knights. This was the lacrosse team's first game, and we didn't know what to expect, but we started the season with an explosive win. The team took control of the game by snatching the first face-off, and through amazing shooting and unselfish play, won the game 18-2.

The MBA microbe lacrosse team then faced Hendersonville, which was a step up in difficulty. The team outworked their opponents and beat the other team 11-3, winning the tournament.

Some tournament statistics are David Spencer with 3g 1a, Keith Gambill with 2g 1a, Tyler Forcum with 2g 1a, Russell Carpenter with 3a, Gaines Garrett with 2g, Hayden Palm with 2g, Chase Mathews with 1g 2a, Paul Garrard with 1g 1a, Johnathan Barringer with 2a, Kip Worthington with 1g, Sam Harwell with 1g, Pat Sanders with 1g, Blake Patton with 1g, Samuel Bamigboye with 1g. The MBA microbe lacrosse team would like to thank Coach Cooper, Coach Brown, and Coach Garner for this tournament win, and we know we made the Caroland family proud.



Mighty Defense: Samuel Bamigboye, Houston Morris, and goalie Wells Hamilton.



A Big Red player digs for the ball as Sam Stallings and Houston Morris stand by ready to help.

A Big Red player snatches the ball from MUS.



Nicholas Caroland Tourney



The 8th grade lacrosse team huddles up to listen to Coach Cooper after a successful start.

7th Grade Lacrosse

By Henry Rogers

In early April, the seventh-grade lacrosse team played in the annual Caroland tournament. This tournament's admission money is given to the Nicholas Caroland fund, which is a fund that collects scholarship money for MBA. The team's opponents in the tournament were Hendersonville and Brentwood Middle School. Our first game was against Hendersonville, and it was a

very hard fought lacrosse game. The score was neck'n'neck the whole game until MBA broke free and took the lead. Then Hendersonville made some last second shots in the fourth quarter to take the win. The final score was 6-7, Hendersonville. This was the first time the seventh grade lacrosse team had been beaten by Hendersonville.

The second game we played was against BMS. From the first face-off MBA had complete control over the game. The final score to this game was 12-2, MBA. Some major contributors to the team in these two games on the offensive side of the ball were Austin Rolfe, William Richardson, Parks Ball, Daniel

Maynard, Trice McCullar, and Kirkland Mawae. In addition, David Bright and Blake Solarek delivered some major blows on defense. Since the Caroland tournament, the team has played Nashville Catholic, MUS, and Hendersonville (again, and the score was the same with Hendersonville scoring a last-second shot to win it.) The seventh-grade team is working hard and improving every game, and we hope for a great season!



SPORTS

Microbe Track and Field

By Owen Powell

The MBA Track and Field team competed in its first meet of the season. The team is led by Head Coach Russell, and Assistant Coaches Vaughn, Bailey, Ferrell, and McDonald. The team placed a respectable 3rd in the Highland games at FRA on Saturday, March 24th. Although they were third, the Big Red was only four points behind the victors, and one point behind the runner-up team.

Almost every member of the team not competing in an event still showed commitment to the team by waking up early Saturday morning and running the open mile. During the day there were many more victories to be celebrated. Will Pearson, Cortland Owens, and Diamond Famous won the Hurdle Relays in a suspenseful race. The team placed 2nd in the 4x200m relay consisting of Stuart Singleton, Andrew Porter, Miles Curry, and Colton Black.

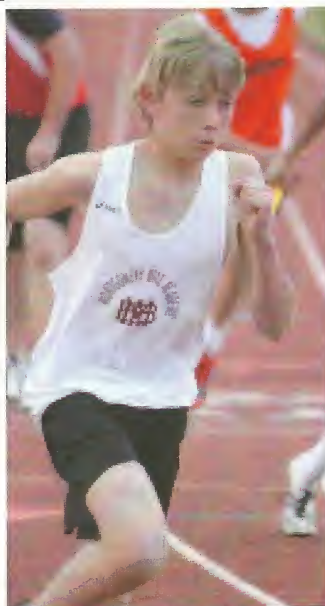
In addition to a strong performance on the track, the Big Red managed to dominate the field as well. Owen Powell, Rahn Bailey, and Andrew Porter tied for 2nd place in the High Jump. In shot put they had a good performance by William Johnson, Ben Kelly, and DJ Clark.

Finally the Big Red had a thrilling victory in the Tug O' War. The team consisted of Jay Robertson, Sam

Weien, Jack Grant, Robertson Fowler, Garrett Fuller, William Johnson, and Ben Kelly. The Big Red showed pure dominance over Ensworth in the championship. The Big Red overall showed great determination throughout the Highland Games, and is hoping for a great season.



Rahn Bailey



Steve Wood



Anthony Swenson



Reid Parker



Luke Bullock

Photos Courtesy of Bianca Parker

SPORTS

Microbe A Baseball Has Strong Start

By Bradley Bennett

The MBA Baseball Program has a strong reputation in middle Tennessee, and the Microbe teams are no exception. This year, tryouts came with the complications and delays of snow. This rare sight caused tryouts to be postponed several times. Thanks to the persistence of the coaches, the fields were soon ready. Coach Matt Golenor, Coach Stack Pierce, and Coach Matthew Jacques were new faces to many new players. The week of tryouts was very cold, but baseball prevailed. The cuts came, creating a new team to continue the baseball legacy. The first practices were a new experience for everyone. The new coaching style of Coach Golenor prepared the team for the quickly approaching scrimmages. The A-Team met their first opponents, the Beech Buccaneers, on March 1. The Big Red took its first victory with a strong hitting performance, a solid line up, and a powerful pitching rotation. Following this success, the Big Red took a tough loss in the next scrimmage against Hermitage. Despite this defeat, the

team quickly bounced back to defeat West End Middle School

After a few practices, the A-team season began with a busy first week. Opening day brought Donelson Christian Academy to 42nd Avenue to take on MBA. The first game ended with the Big Red winning with a run-rule from an explosive offensive performance. Another victory the next day against Nashville Catholic also boosted spirits. Celebrations were short-lived due to a tough loss to Lipscomb.



Travonte Easley

Because I came to MBA from Goodpasture, our game against my old school was a personal game for me. We ended in a tie 4 to 4 due to darkness. A tie was a new experience for everyone's baseball career. The team moved forward from these games

learning new things and addressing mistakes.

Both the A-Team and the B-Team have many tough games ahead against many challenging opponents. The teams have been well prepared by the coaching staff and are ready to continue the microbe baseball legacy with a great season.



Montgomery Turner checks the runner at first.



Garrett Miler and Tristan Chari talk strategy on the mound.



Bradley Bennett



Jalen Hurd



Luke Cochran

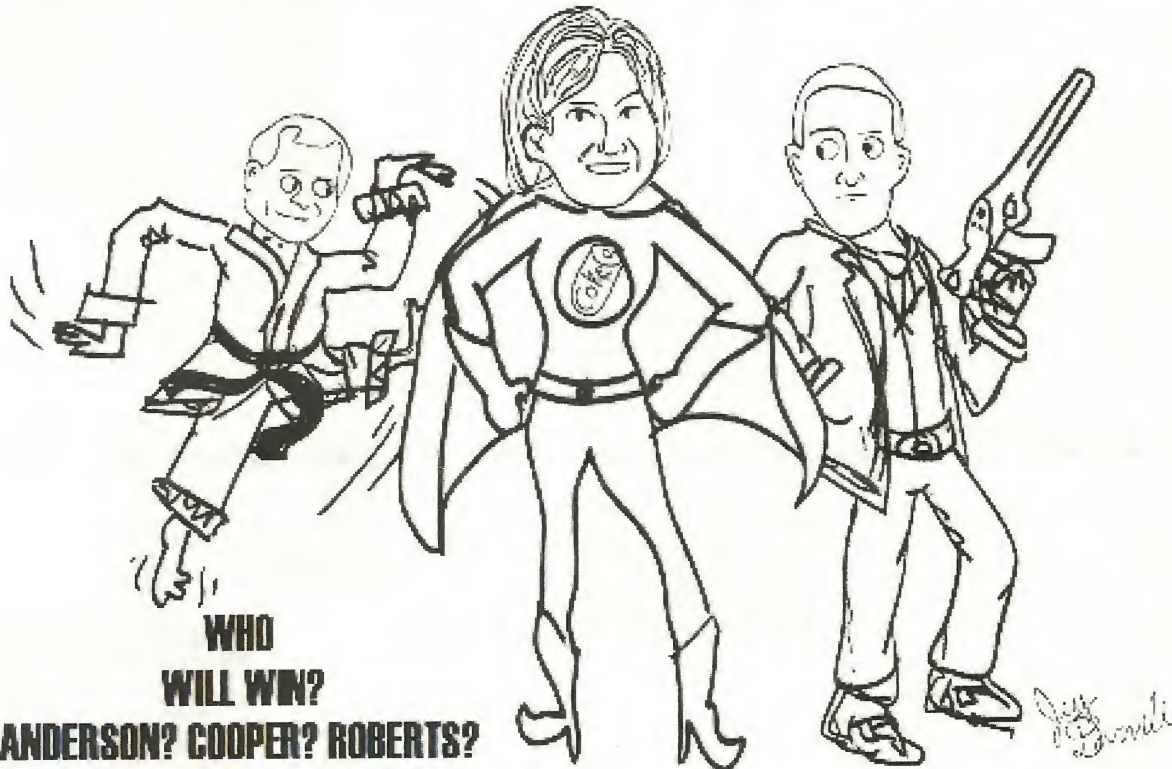


Tucker Voges is poised to steal.

Photos Courtesy of Michael Bennett

THE BACK PAGE

THE BATTLE OF THE TEACHERS



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